

Chapter 5

Band Training

RESOURCES

5-1. FM 25-100, and FM 25-101 have been established as the capstone manuals for the execution of training. These FMs present the Army's standardized training doctrine and are applicable throughout the force. They provide the necessary guidelines on how to plan, execute, and assess training at all levels. The manuals provide authoritative foundations for the individual leader and unit training. These manuals have application for leaders at all levels and for every type of organization. Every senior leader is expected to know, understand, and apply the concepts in these manuals. Appendix D of this manual provides examples of applying these concepts to Army band training.

REHEARSAL

5-2. Sufficient musical training is of primary importance in delivering a professional performance. The band commander must ensure that each ensemble receives the training time it requires to successfully perform its mission.

INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING

5-3. Detailed information and guidance on the following Army band courses is available in DA Pam 351-4.

ENLISTED TRAINING

Initial Entry Training

5-4. **Active Duty.** All potential bandmembers entering the Army for duty with active component Division and Army Bands, or Army Bands (General Support) receive basic training followed by Advanced Individual Training at the tri-service School of Music. Bandmembers entering the Army for duty with The U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own), The U.S. Army Field Band, The U.S. Military Academy Band, and The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps report directly to these units for further training upon completion of basic training.

5-5. **Reserve and National Guard.** All potential bandmembers entering the Army for duty with USAR/ARNG bands receive basic training followed by individual orientation training with an active component band. Active component band commanders provide orientation training to USAR/ARNG musicians in the following areas: individual instrumental lessons; marching band; concert band; stage band and/or popular idiom group for applicable instruments. There is no formal AIT requirement or program of instruction to be followed since the remainder of individual training will occur at the home station. The length of individual orientation for USAR/ARNG band personnel not attending POI 450-F1 is governed by NGR 600-200 for ARNG personnel and AR 601-210 for USAR personnel.

Advanced Technical And Tactical Training

5-6. All bandmembers (except MOS 02S) are given the opportunity to further their careers by attending courses that are part of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES).

5-7. **Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC).** Bandmembers who are specialists receive Primary Leadership Development Course training through local NCO Academies. This program of instruction is designed to train soldiers in the skills necessary to lead squads and squad sized elements.

5-8. **Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC).** Qualified bandmembers who are sergeants receive Basic Noncommissioned Officer training. This program of instruction is designed to train soldiers in skill level three military and musical skills.

5-9. **Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC).** Qualified bandmembers who are staff sergeants receive Advanced Noncommissioned Officer training upon selection by the annual Sergeant First Class/ANCOC selection board. This program of instruction is designed to train soldiers in skill level four military and musical skills.

5-10. **First Sergeants Course.** Qualified bandmembers selected by Department of the Army (DA) for promotion to master Sergeant, and scheduled for assignment as a first sergeant, will attend the First Sergeants Course to receive the “M” MOS identifier (first sergeant).

5-11. **Sergeants’ Major Academy.** First Sergeants and Master Sergeants selected by DA for promotion to Sergeant Major will attend the Sergeants’ Major Academy course of instruction.

WARRANT OFFICER BANDMASTER TRAINING

Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

5-12. Prospective Active Component Warrant Officer Bandmasters first attend the Warrant Officer Candidate School which provides training in leadership and management skills, as well as professional development, communicative arts, and basic military subjects.

Bandmaster Warrant Officer Basic Course (BWOBC)

5-13. Bandmembers who complete the WOCS attend the follow-on Bandmaster Warrant Officer Basic Course taught at the U.S. Army Element School of Music. This 21-week certification course teaches the skills that warrant officers need to perform as Army bandmasters and commanders. Prospective USAR/ARNG Warrant Officer Bandmasters must complete a four-step process consisting of a pre-screen evaluation, an application which must be approved by a centralized board, completion of Reserve Component WOCS, and a final evaluation to certify technical skills prior to attending this course.

Bandmaster Warrant Officer Advanced Course (BWOAC)

5-14. Upon selection to CW3, bandmasters attend the Bandmaster Warrant Officer Advanced Course at the U.S. Army Element School of Music.

Warrant Officer Staff Course (WOSC)

5-15. Upon selection to CW4, bandmasters attend the Warrant Officer Staff Course at Fort Rucker, AL.

Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course (WOSSC)

5-16. Upon selection to CW5, bandmasters attend the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course at Fort Rucker, AL.

ARMY BAND OFFICER TRAINING

5-17. Prospective Army Band Officers must be commissioned officers selected by the Department of the Army (DA) in accordance with procedures established under the Chief, Army Bands. Selected officers attend the Army Band Officer Course at the U.S. Army Element, School of Music. The course provides training in advanced conducting techniques, related musical skills, and in Staff Band Officer duties. Other required courses through Army band officer career progression are the Adjutant General Officer Basic Course (AGOBC), the Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course (AGOAC), the Combined Arms and Services Staff School (CAS3), the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), and the U.S. Army War College (AWC).

UNIT COLLECTIVE TRAINING

5-18. Unit-level musical training programs emphasize individual fundamentals and promote teamwork. If operational commitments or other factors preclude musical training for an extended period of time, the proficiency of the band will deteriorate and the mission will be impaired.

RESPONSIBILITIES**The Band Commander**

5-19. The band commander is responsible for training. He plans training events, arranges for support, ensures that training is conducted, and evaluates soldier and unit proficiency. The band commander identifies training objectives, provides guidance, and ensures that necessary resources are available. The band commander leads and commands the band in the execution of its collective tasks, trains the senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs), and manages the unit's resources. The band commander also evaluates training sessions and unit training management procedures. The band commander develops an overall unit training program based on the best combination of resources, materials, guidance, and time to meet specific training needs. The collective skills that bands need to train are listed in the Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) 12-113 MTP, and in each unit's Mission Essential Task List (METL). The band commander achieves the mission by guiding, supervising, inspecting, and evaluating duties conducted by band NCOs

The Band Sergeant Major/First Sergeant

5-20. The band sergeant major/first sergeant's principal duty is the individual training of enlisted members of the band. The band sergeant major/first sergeant also administers the unit Non-Commissioned Officer Development Program (NCODP). The band senior NCO is also responsible for the NCO responsibilities outlined below.

Band Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs)

5-21. The band NCOs are responsible for the execution of individual training, and the development of individual training programs. NCOs care for individual soldiers and their families, both on and off duty. NCOs lead and train their subordinates in individual tasks including the maintenance of the equipment assigned to the unit, section, or team. NCOs are responsible for supervising physical fitness training, and ensuring that their soldiers comply with the weight and appearance standards of AR 600-9 and AR 670-1. NCOs are also responsible to train sections, squads, teams and crews.

MUSICAL TRAINING**Marching Band Training**

5-22. The band commander prescribes the frequency of training for marching band formations and movements. This training is necessary to maintain the precision expected of an Army marching band. Senior noncommissioned officers under the supervision of the band commander or the band Sergeant Major/First Sergeant will conduct marching band drill. This training stresses individual fundamentals, unit precision, and the musical sound of the band while marching.

Concert Band Training

5-23. The band commander prescribes the frequency of concert band training. The time scheduled for concert band is prime unit training time. In Division and Army bands this requires the attendance and participation of the whole unit. The purpose of concert band training is to prepare for concert band missions, conduct concurrent MOS training, and to accomplish multi-echelon training.

Popular Idiom Training

5-24. Popular idiom groups are ensembles such as stage band, rock band, show band, jazz combo, or country and western band. The band commander prescribes the frequency of popular idiom training. A senior NCO will normally conduct training for popular idiom groups in Division and Army bands. Popular idiom training emphasizes individual fundamentals and development of popular styles, interpretation, and improvisation. Section training should be used for correcting technical problems and perfecting difficult passages.

Section/Group Training

5-25. The band commander prescribes the frequency of section and group training. Problems unique to one instrumental section will be referred to section training. Problems unique to one instrumental group will be referred to group training. This saves time in full band training. Section or group training should be used for correcting technical problems and perfecting difficult musical passages. Noncommissioned officers trained in the necessary musical skills and techniques will conduct section and group training.

Small Ensemble Training

5-26. The band commander prescribes the frequency of small ensemble training. Small ensembles include tailored groups such as combos, quartets, quintets, and brass ensembles. Small groups provide sufficient means of satisfying certain performance requirements. Additionally, these groups provide an effective training tool to improve individual proficiency. Operational requirements and personnel availability dictate the number and type of small ensembles in a band. Band commanders will strive to increase individual proficiency by expanding the repertoire of existing ensembles and by organizing new ensembles when needed.

SECURITY AUGMENTATION/DEFENSIVE TRAINING

5-27. As with all Combat Service Support (CSS) units, Division and Army bands (Direct Support), and Army bands (General Support) may be required to temporarily augment local security during periods of increased combat intensity. Division and Army bands (Direct Support), and Army bands (General Support) train collectively for the effective execution of local security augmentation missions. These bands also train for self-defense during movement and self-defense in the event of an attack while performing their musical mission. The band commander will determine the frequency of security augmentation and defensive training.

GENERAL MILITARY TRAINING

5-28. Local commands dictate the areas of emphasis in military training each unit receives. This training takes place in the form of scheduled classes, hands-on-training, and training evaluations. Examples of areas in which all units conduct training are weapons marksmanship and qualification, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Code of Conduct, Geneva/Hague Conventions, Army Programs, and Consideration of Others (CO2) training. Additionally, noncommissioned officers receive training on counseling and leadership techniques. Band commanders will ensure that all bandmembers participate in this required military training.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAINING

5-29. An effective physical training program is both musically and militarily important. Personal appearance and military bearing are important to any Army unit, but are emphasized strongly in ceremonial units such as Army bands. In addition, a good physical training program is a morale booster for the unit. With this in mind, band commanders include a regular physical training program in the training schedule. The training will be designed to improve the physical fitness of bandmembers and enable them to better accomplish the mission. Supervision of the unit physical fitness program is the responsibility of the unit NCOs. Physical fitness training guidelines and procedures are outlined in FM 21-20.

UNIT LEVEL INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

5-30. Individual training develops the technical proficiency of both the soldier and the leader. It focuses on the mastery of mission-essential skills and tasks. Leader training consists of individual training to equip leaders to perform leadership tasks associated with the operational mission of the unit. It prepares the leader to lead his unit, make decisions, and develop tactical and technical proficiency. The band NCOs, supervised by the band sergeant major/first sergeant, are responsible for developing and implementing individual training programs to support the unit mission.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

5-31. To maintain proficiency, bandmembers must devote sufficient time to individual practice. Daily individual practice sessions of at least one to two hours should be included in the training schedule. During this time, bandmembers will work to perfect difficult passages in the current musical repertoire. In addition, bandmembers may work on studies and exercises designed to improve instrumental proficiency. Individual practice is normally scheduled during duty hours, reflected on training schedules, and supervised. Bandmembers should be encouraged to further practice after duty hours.

COMMON TASK SUSTAINMENT TRAINING

5-32. The Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks (SMCT) contains the common tasks that are essential to the Army's ability to win on the modern battlefield. Soldiers are required to maintain proficiency in the performance of these tasks for their skill level and below. The tasks specified in the SMCTs should be trained frequently. Unit commanders are responsible for this training, while unit NCOs plan and conduct the training.

COLLATERAL TRAINING

5-33. Selected individuals should be trained through On-the-Job training (OJT) to perform collateral duties in band support positions. NCOs assigned to collateral duties will train assistants to perform these duties in their absence. Local formal and informal training resources should be utilized as available. This will provide a pool of individuals who are trained to assume the various collateral unit duties. Bandmembers should be screened for their experience and aptitude for the various collateral duty positions and then trained to assume those duties before the need arises.

TRAINING MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

5-34. Training is based on specific tasks, conditions, and standards. During band training, leaders assess soldier proficiency by evaluating task performance against standards in soldier's manuals and the unit Mission Training Plan.

MISSION TRAINING PLAN FOR UNITED STATES ARMY BANDS (ARTEP 12-113-MTP)

5-35. ARTEP 12-113-MTP is a descriptive, mission-oriented program to help commanders train Army bands to perform critical tasks. This MTP facilitates the planning, preparation, conduct, and evaluation of band unit training as explained in FM 25-100, and FM 25-101.

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING EVALUATION PROGRAM (ITEP)

5-36. The ITEP is an Army-wide program that describes the evaluation of the individual soldiers' knowledge and performance of military and MOS-specific skills. The ITEP evaluates the individual soldier through the Common Task Test (CTT), and the commander's evaluation. For more information on ITEP, refer to AR 350-37.